

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175144

51

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-13 NEA-10 DPW-01 AID-20

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED PROPOSAL TO CUT SIZE OF ICCS

HEREWITH TEXT OF REUTERS ITEM BY PETER SHARROCK DATED
SAIGON SEPT 3.

QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES, NORTH VIETNAM AND THE VIET CONG
HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICCS) BUT SOUTH VIETNAM
IS RELUCTANT, INFORMED SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE SOURCES SAID THE REDUCTION, WHICH COULD BEGIN AS
EARLY AS NEXT MONTH, WAS PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS
AGREEMENT AND HAD PARTLY BEEN PROPOSED IN ORDER TO CUT THE
HIGH ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE ICCS OF 43 MILLION DOLLARS.

THE SOURCES SAID THERE WAS SOME SUPPORT FOR A DRASTIC CUT
OF MORE THAN 75 PERCENT FROM THE PRESENT LEVEL OF MORE THAN
1,100 ICCS PERSONNEL TO THE SIZE OF THE OLD ICC CREATED BY
THE GENEVA AGREEMENT OF 1954 WHICH TOTALLED 250 PEOPLE.

HUNGARY, INDONESIA AND POLAND NOW HAVE FULL DELEGATIONS
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PAGE 02 STATE 175144

OF ABOUT 290 MEN IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IRAN IS EXPECTED TO

FULLY REPLACE CANADA'S 290-MAN CONTINGENT SOME TIME THIS MONTH.

SOUTH VIETNAM'S RELUCTANCE TO SEE THE ICCS CUT IN SIZE IS

BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS STILL MUCH VIOLATED AND THE PRISONER EXCHANGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED, GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID.

FURTHERMORE, NO AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED ON PORTS AND POINTS OF ENTRY FOR ARMS REPLACEMENTS -- WHICH THE ICCS SHOULD MONITOR, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES. UNQUOTE

IN RELATED UPI STORY FROM SAIGON SEPT 3, BARNEY SEIBERT REPORTS QUOTE: LAST FRIDAY THE VIET CONG ASKED THE ICCS TO CONSIDER REDUCING THE SIZE OF ITS DELEGATION, APPARENTLY TO SAVE MONEY. THE ICCS HAS SUBMITTED A DOLS 42 MILLION BUDGET, BUT NORTH VIET-NAM AND THE VIET CONG WANT THE AMOUNT TRIMMED TO DOLS 18 MILLION. UNQUOTE
ROGERS

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